

# Homalanthus populifolius

## COMMON NAME

Queensland poplar

## FAMILY

Euphorbiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Homalanthus populifolius Graham

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

HOMPOP

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. A pioneer species that grows in gaps or on the margin of rainforests in Australia. It will produce thickets in these situations but canopy trees seem to be able to grow through. This would suggest that it prefers dappled shade but has also been seen growing in quite sunny areas. It is often used to provide shelter in revegetation areas in Australia (John Clarkson, pers. comm.).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous shrub or small tree up to 5 m high. Twigs rounded, slightly ribbed. Leaves ovate to rhombic, truncate to obtuse at base, acute to acuminate or rarely obtuse at apex, (3)-5-15-(20) cm long, usually turning red in cooler part of year; seedling leaves broadly ovate, truncate at base; petioles greater than, equal to, or less than blade; stipules soon deciduous. Racemes up to 17 cm long, usually with few solitary long-pedicellate female flowers below or at base, and many clusters of (1)-3-4 short-pedicellate male flowers (racemes rarely unisexual, or with 1-2 male flowers clustered with upper females); each group of flowers subtended by a bract and 2 prominent glands. Male flowers: stamens 4-10; perianth segments 2. Female flowers: ovary 2-celled; styles 2. Fruit more or less smooth, grooved between the 2 cells, ridged on keels, glaucous, 8-10 mm diameter (Webb et al 1988).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from the endemic *H. polyandrus* by the clustered male flowers and female flowers with 2 styles and 2 -celled ovary.

## FLOWERING

September, October, November

## YEAR NATURALISED

1980

## ORIGIN

NSW to New Guinea



Homalanthus populifolius showing tree form.  
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Homalanthus populifolius flowers.  
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## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS

Perennial. Appears to be long lived (George Wilson, pers. comm.).

## DISPERSAL

Bird dispersed (Lisa Forester 1996). Other methods of movement include gravity, water and machinery especially roadside mowers (Tony McCluggage pers. comm.).

## TOLERANCES

Shade tolerant (Lisa Forester 1996).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gardner, R. 1999. *Homalanthus* (Euphorbiaceae) in New Zealand and its fruit. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 54: 6-7

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/homalanthus-populifolius/>